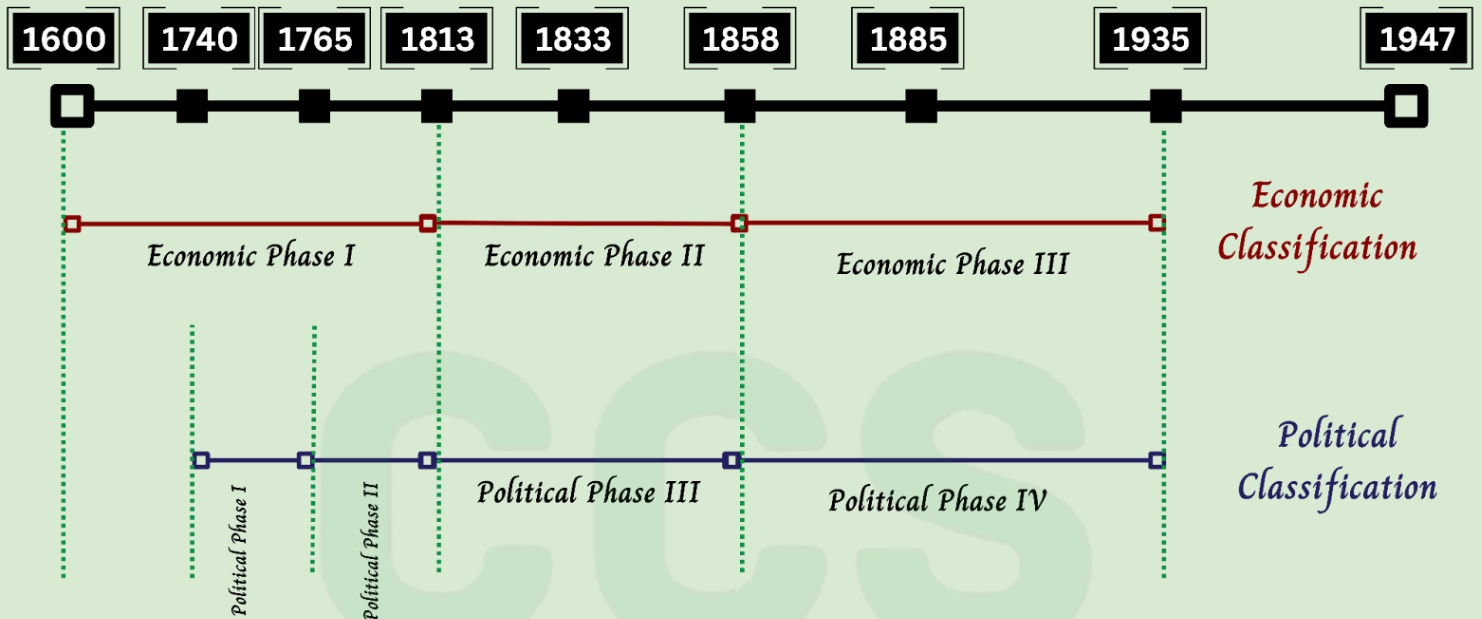


Section 1: Introduction

❖ Colonialism

- **Colonialism** is a political system in which two distinct political entities are interconnected. It is based on economic interests where one entity exploits while the other is nourished.



Economic Policies

❖ R.P Dutt's Model

- R.P. Dutt, a Marxist historian, wrote the economic history of India.
- Since colonialism is based on economic interests, the political or military events of a period are influenced by the British economic interests of that time.
- R.P. Dutt divided the Indian colonial period into three stages based on economic interests:
 - Phase - I (1765 - 1813) - Mercantile Phase
 - Phase - II (1813 - 1858) - Industrial Capitalism
 - Phase - III (1885 - 1947) - Financial Capitalism

❖ Stage I (1765 - 1813) - Mercantile Phase

- This first stage begins with the establishment of British rule in India.
- **EIC** (East India Company) was a trading organization that traded goods from India to Britain.
- During this stage, EIC's main objective was to establish a monopoly and direct plunder.
 - Therefore, wars were fought solely for these interests.
- During this period, the British made no changes to the Indian administrative system.

"Indians should be governed by their own customs and traditions"

-Warren Hastings

- Colonial Objectives
 - Eliminate rival European powers.
 - Engage in conflicts with local Indian rulers only when trade interests were affected.

❖ Stage II (1813 - 1858) - Industrial Capitalism

- In 1813, the British government passed the **Charter Act**, ending EIC's monopoly in India, except for trade in tea and with China.

- In this changing scenario, EIC's economic interests could be ensured only through direct political control over the maximum regions.
- The Industrial Revolution in Europe changed EIC's trade interests.
 - The supply of raw materials and markets for manufactured goods became priorities over direct trade.
 - Direct political control also facilitated this.
- Britishers Created new Administrative structures in India
 - Judiciary, Administrative structure etc.
- Communication and transport was developed
 - Rail, Telegraph, Post
- The creation of new markets for British goods in India required significant changes in Indian society.
 - It was necessary to create black-skinned Englishmen
 - Development of new education policy
 - Social reforms
- **Outcomes of the Second Stage**
 - British expansionist policies made many Indian rulers their enemies.
 - British social reforms and education policies instilled fear in Indians of losing their religion and civilization.
 - Result: The 1857 revolt nearly expelled the British from India.

❖ **Stage III (1858 - 1935) - Financial Capitalism**

- The 1857 revolt woke the British from their slumber.
- Immediate changes to old policies were deemed necessary.
- Changes (Government of India Act 1858)
 - EIC was abolished, and the administration was directly transferred to the **Crown**.
 - The policy of annexation was halted.
 - Social reforms were minimal.
 - The Government of India Act 1858 was introduced for good governance in India.
- During this period, British capitalists' investments in India were secured.
- Limited, unbalanced industrial development occurred in India, including the development of railways, tea plantations, jute mills, and coal mines.
- However, this industrial growth was still focused on maintaining dependency on Britain.

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❖ Tools of Conquest

- The British employed two instruments for the conquest of India: war and treaties.
- In the context of war, their diplomacy proved more effective than their direct battles.
- Treaties were essentially a part of the British war strategy.
 - Initial treaties were merely a prelude to the next war.
 - The cycle of war and initial treaties continued until the final treaty was concluded.
- The final treaties aimed to establish **British Paramourncy** in India.

❖ British Political Policies in India

- During the colonial period, the political and military policies adopted by the British in India display a pattern that seems to relate to R.P. Dutt's economic classification.
 - Phase 1 - Before 1765
 - Phase 2 - 1765 - 1813
 - Phase 3 - 1813 - 1858
 - Phase 4 - 1858 - 1935

1. Phase 1: Effort for Equality with Indian States(Before 1765)

- During this phase, the EIC (East India Company) was merely a trader trying to establish equality with Indian states.
- War was the most favorable instrument during this period.

2. Phase 2: Policy of Ring Fence(1765 - 1813)

- This policy is also known as the **Policy of Buffer States**.
- During this period, the British rule in India faced security challenges.
 - Internal threats: Marathas, Mysore, etc.
 - External threats: Invasions from Afghanistan and other regions.
- The British policy during this period was shaped by these security challenges.
- The **Policy of Ring Fence** involved creating a friendly buffer zone around strategically important areas for security purposes.
 - For instance, the Treaty of Amritsar with Ranjit Singh and Warren Hastings' policies during the Maratha and Mysore wars reflect this.
 - After establishing themselves in Bengal, the British feared invasions from Afghanistan and the Marathas, so keeping Awadh in a system similar to a subsidiary alliance helped secure Bengal.
- Britishers employed the tool of **Subsidiary Alliance**
 - States that accepted the **Subsidiary Alliance** had a British officer, known as a **Resident**, appointed at their court.
 - During the **Policy of Buffer States**, this Resident did not interfere in the internal matters of the state and acted as a liaison between the company and the princely state.

3. Phase 3: Policy of Subordinate Isolation (1813 - 1858)

- During this period, the British Empire in India expanded rapidly.
- The economic backdrop of this period highlights this new political system.
- The relationship between the British and Indian states was based on subordinate cooperation
 - The principle of British paramourncy began to be established.
- Under this policy, the native states were free in their internal affairs but had to cede their external sovereignty to the British.
- British employed the tool of '**Doctrine of Lapse**', allowing them to take over a native kingdom if the thone lacks a blood heir.
- However, during the **Policy of Subordinate Isolation**, the Resident's influence in internal matters increased.
- Charter Act of 1833
 - This act ended all commercial activities of the EIC and established it as a purely administrative entity.

"Wherever and whenever possible, native states should be incorporated into the company."

– Court of Director (1834)

4. Phase 4: Policy of Subordinate Union (1858 - 1935)

➤ Government of India Act

- This act was introduced as a result of the 1857 uprising.
- The administration of India shifted indirectly under the British Crown, replacing the EIC.
- To pacify the agitated people, this act was termed as the first Government of India Act.
- It was introduced as act for good governance.
 - The British ceased their policy of annexation and promised not to annex new territories. By this period, British paramountcy was fully established.
- To mitigate the adverse effects of the **Policy of Subordinate Isolation**, the **Policy of Subordinate Union** was established.

➤ Subordinate Union

- British-controlled territories (directly administered).
- Native princely states (connected through a subordinate treaty).

Footnotes:

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